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Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good. http://www.asce-philly.org National ASCE Central Number: 1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free.

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

# SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2021-22 ALMOST OVER...

Hard to believe, and time indeed has flown – our season is nearly over. We have two events remaining, both the Spring Social.

Civil Engineers are global leaders

building a better quality of life.

**The Social** will feature two events this year – the first will be a virtual formal event on May 5 and the second being an in-person networking/social affair on May 19 at Maggiano's in Center City. Details are being finalized and more information will be provided in the May edition of THE NEWS as well as in upcoming e-blasts.

## **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

# **GATTI RIDES OFF INTO THE** SUNSET...

Section Past President Darin Gatti officially retired from his position as Chief Engineer and Surveyor at the Philadelphia Department of Streets in late February. Darin was cited at a luncheon to celebrate his retirement on February 24 as he wrapped up an impressive 40-year career with the Department, starting as a Drexel Co-op in the Bridge Section of the Survey and Design Division and rising to become Chief Engineer after spending most of his career as a Design Engineer and Design Supervisor in the Bridge Section. In addition to his service as Section President and several years as Treasurer, he has been the Practictioner Adviser for Drexel University and has been a key part of the concrete canoe and steel beam competitions both locally and nationally for many years.

We wish Darin well in his well-earned and deserved retirement.



# **APRIL SECTION MEETING**

## Thursday, April 14, 2022

## Virtual Meeting Presentation - 12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM

As has been done for the past several, this meeting will consist of "breakout" sessions on three separate topics.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13.** There is no cost for ASCE members to attend this presentation. Non-ASCE members will be charged \$15. When registering, please have your ASCE ID number available. Your membership will need to be current for you to be able to register for the event as a member.

Reservations can be made through our website (www.asce-philly.org) and paid via PayPal or by check as applicable. Checks, made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE", can be mailed as instructed when you register. After you register you will receive information and instructions on how to access this meeting on your computer or device. There will be a choice of three separate sessions as described below. Meeting attendees will be assembled in one "room" for the meeting start and announcements and then will be dispersed to the session of their choice. It is anticipated that each session will be eligible for one Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit.

Session 1: The Importance of Construction Control in Foundation Acceptance. Silas C. Nichols, Federal Highway Administration. Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI).

For more than 35 years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed and maintained a document library in support of agency policy for the design and construction of structure foundations, earth retention, and other geotechnical features Continued on page 6

# **Announcing Our 2022 Section Award Nominees**

Our Section Awards will be presented at our Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance in May. More information and details on the Social will be included in the May edition of THE NEWS.

We received a number of strong nominations for Section Awards this year and the Awards Committee had the not-so-easy task to review the submissions and prepare a recommended slate of Award recipients. The recommended recipients have been approved by our Section Board of Directors. They are:

James "Jay" McKelvey, Earth Engineering – Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year Kevin Walsh, HNTB – Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year Jennifer Peirce Brandt, Peirce Engineering - Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Harold Windisch, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - Government Service Award

Christian Antisell, Traffic Planning & Design, and

Christopher "CJ" Medora, WSP – Community Outreach and Service Award We hope you will be able to join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year. More information on our awardees will be included in our October edition of THE NEWS.

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy spring! I know the weather has not been feeling so much like spring over the past few weeks, but I am looking forward to hopefully a warm April!

Thank you to everyone who "tuned" into our virtual March Section meeting on March 10th. **Michael Venuto**, DRPA Chief Engineer, gave a great presentation on DRPA's Capital Program and Projects Update. We learned about all the great projects DRPA is currently working on and are looking forward to another presentation in the future with more DRPA project updates!



Looking ahead to our **April Joint Tech Group Section** meeting, we will be holding this meeting virtually on **Thursday, April 14th** from **12pm to 1:30pm**. DVGI, SEI and T&DI/Construction Tech Group will be hosting our three presentation topics. Please keep a look out for more information on our section e-blast, newsletter and website to register!

As our April meeting will be closing out our last Section meeting of the year, I am looking forward to our last event of the season, our **Annual Spring Social!** We will be holding our annual awards presentation virtually on **May 5th** where we will recognize our Past Presidents, Life Members, Section Scholarship Winners, Delaware Science Fair Winners and Section Awardees. As we did last year we will start the event with a networking hour where you can "jump" around to the different breakout rooms to meet and network with all the awardees and other registrants. This will be followed by our awardees presentation where we will honor all our awardees.

Then on **May 19th**, we will be holding an in person reception at our favorite place **Maggiano's** to recognize our Section Awardees and Scholarship Winners. This will be our last event of the year where I will be handing over the gavel to the next Section President and we will be inducting the 2022-2023 Section Board.

I am looking forward to "seeing" everyone at our April Joint Tech Group Section Meeting on the 14th!

Best, Briana Pampuch, PE President, ASCE Philadelphia Section bpampuch@langan.com | 215-491-6548

# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank the 14 firms participating in our Section sponsorship program this season for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor's business cards are printed in each edition of *THE NEWS*. Their logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website, where we provide direct links to their own sites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We also offer sponsors the opportunity to have a "spotlight" article in an edition of *THE NEWS*.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact Bob Wright at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.



## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2021-22 SEASON

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\*In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a *one-year term. We show* the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.

In addition, these folks will serve in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International

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## MARCH SECTION "VIRTUAL" JOINT MEETING

#### March 10, 2022

# Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) Capital Program and Projects Update

#### By Robert Wright, Editor

While it is hard to believe that our last in-person Section meeting was held nearly two years ago to the day, on the eve of the virus shutdowns, and similarly hard to believe that we are still having virtual meetings (although going "back to normal" seems temptingly on the horizon), we managed to amass roughly 70 attendees on a chilly March evening to once again miss the good food and camaraderie that would have been had we been able to meet at Maggiano's, as planned at the start of this season (thus we could only imagine the great selections we might be enjoying...). That notwithstanding, we were no doubt in for a different sort of treat, as we would be hearing about DRPA's coming plans and projects that are underway.

Section President Briana Pampuch got things started with several announcements and offering thanks to our current Section sponsors, and introduced the featured Student Chapter from Temple University for a short update on things happening there. Chapter President Caroline Merrill and Vice President Kate Kubiak ably "tag-teamed" the overview of the Chapter's recent activities and welcomed speakers to present to them on various topics in upcoming Chapter meetings. Following this, Section President-Elect Moe Elghawy introduced the evening's featured speaker, Michael Venuto, Chief Engineer, DRPA, who thanked the Temple team and noted the importance of cultivation of the next generation of engineers to help us do what we do.

Mr. Venuto opened with DRPA's mission and vision and how this enhances our region's mobility and economic "engine". He noted that the pandemic has had a measurable impact both on bridge traffic levels and PATCO ridership. On the former, toll revenues decreased to 30% of pre-pandemic levels at their low point, but slowly rebounded to 70-80%, with the current numbers close to 90%. For the latter, ridership reached a remarkable 7% at its worst point, but has come back to roughly 44% presently. While this was unanticipated and had impacts on the ability to fund work, it also had a positive benefit of allowing work to be completed, often ahead of schedule, as lower traffic levels allowed longer working hours and fewer traffic restrictions and impacts. DRPA's capital program, which is starting a new 5-year cycle this year, includes \$740 million of projects that will result in improvements on all four bridges and PATCO, but with particular emphasis on the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman Bridges and PATCO facilities. Mr. Venuto explained that 2020 (\$200 million) and 2021 (\$185 million) reflected a record number of projects and expenditure levels for the Authority and this is expected to continue in the coming 5-year program. He added that engineering opportunities are advertised through a SOQ process and GEC arrangements and the Authority is always looking for dedicated and invested teams and firms for its assignments. A list of upcoming projects can be found on its website (drpa. org). In the immediate horizon design work on the Ben Franklin Bridge and construction management/monitoring for efforts on PATCO and the Betsy Ross Bridge will be available for proposals in the coming months.

Mr. Venuto gave synopses of current DRPA construction efforts. The largest of these, on the Ben Franklin Bridge, encompasses five major separate efforts under one contract with a value of \$194 million, the largest project handled by the Authority to date. Other work includes the completion of the Walt Whitman Bridge Pennsylvania approach corridor improvements and cable rehabilitation on the suspension structure, structural restoration on the Commodore Barry Bridge, elevators at PATCO stations in Collingswood and 12th/13th Streets, and solar panel installation at several locations, along with a handful of smaller-scale enhancements. He noted that proposals were recently released for the Gloucester-Camden light rail line, which DRPA is managing for NJ Transit, and the PATCO Center Tower which will relocate the line's control center from Camden to Lindenwold with a new building. The PATCO Franklin Square station rehabilitation is additionally about to start, with the contractor beginning to mobilize on the site at this time.

DRPA's utilization of federal funding from recent infrastructure legislation remains uncertain and Mr. Venuto noted that the Authority, which funds its projects from toll and fare revenues, will need to review and evaluate whether this funding will be able to assist its efforts. He added that the Authority will continue to embrace the roles that professionals serve as civil engineers and stewards of the built environment and infrastructure to make sure its facilities continue to serve customers efficiently and effectively.

A number of questions were raised by the attendees and Mr. Venuto provided insightful responses. President Pampuch closed the informative session and thanked Mr. Venuto for his good presentation.



# And the Young Will Lead Us (But It Will Be Virtual...) – Our 2021-22 Section President

As we learn going through life, few things are constants and predictable. The calendar is in many ways one of these in the sense that events happen according to it. We know when March comes into the picture, concerns about snowstorms and bad weather start to fade away (even though we have had some "doozies", to use the meteorological term, in the last month of winter), and we look forward to more daylight, greenery and critters returning, and maybe most importantly, nice weather to allow us to put the winter gear away. Among the "standard bearers" of spring are the celebrated return of the swallows to Capistrano and the lesser-known arrival of the buzzards in Hinckley, OH, and no one knows exactly why each one of these happens, but it does.

In much the same way, our Section knows April is coming when the traditional year-end assessment of our current President appears in *THE NEWS*. While we look forward to this annual rite (and your Editor is sure we all do...), we aren't exactly sure how it actually started, or why it started, but we know it's been around for a long time and we are not ones to blindly stop tradition, so here we go, whether any of us want this to happen. As for parental warning, this will certainly be acceptable for all audiences (and may be good for putting young children to sleep), but it has been known to take some interesting turns as we go down the path of our President's accomplishments and other information over the past year. But, as noted, we are not ones to toy with tradition, so whether we want to do this or not, we are compelled to "go there".

From what we can gather, the much more esteemed and erudite Editor of this publication, the legend known as Sidney Robin (who, by the way, held the position for 61 years!), both enjoyed taking shots at the Presidents as he could and in doing so was able to utilize his extensive vocabulary skills to make it sound to the casual observer that these were compliments, when they were most certainly not. The current occupant of the Editor's desk, having only been at it for a third of Mr. Robin's tenure, and being much less esteemed, erudite and verbally nimble, will somewhat weakly attempt to do much the same. Way back when, this was done in the combined April-May edition of THE NEWS that closed out the season, thus it was very much the "last word" on things. And Sid knew this, and knew the President would have no chance for rebuttal (yes, Sid could be a little devious). Your Editor has changed things up a bit, first by adding an edition in May as our last issue, and allowing the now-penultimate one (April) to provide this "roast" thus giving the President a chance for response in May. (Have you reached for the dictionary yet...?) So with that background, let's get into the details.

No one anywhere should at all be surprised that our 2021-22 Section President, one Briana Earle Pampuch, has done a great job and given her all in her time at the helm of our Section. This is especially impressive in that she followed in the footsteps of her predecessor, Jen Reigle, who managed to also do a great job, particularly at a time in which we had no choice but to provide Section activities in a virtual format to comply with virus guidelines and restrictions. While we thought we had gotten past those roadblocks at the end of last season, and managed to conduct two Spring Socials, one virtually in May and an in-person "Welcome Back" event in September, we found ourselves back to virtual options only for what we thought would be a few meetings, but what turned out to be yet another entire season. While in many ways Jen had set the stage for virtual format, presentation guidance, etc., Briana, as her "right hand person", was very much a part of making all of this happen. So when we had to revert to virtual after planning a season of hoped-for in-person meetings, and even often discussed what our favorite appetizers and entrees (and let's not forget desserts) would be when we got back to Maggiano's at a few Board meetings, the unfortunate truth slapped us in the face that we could indeed only think about that for now. But, keep in mind, we will be having the gettogether part of our Spring Social there in May...

Indeed, keeping in mind we haven't been to Maggiano's, or had an in-person Section meeting in over two years (some of you may remember the March 2020 meeting on the eve of the shutdowns, with a bit of a scary atmosphere hanging over those of us there, not knowing what would be coming), thus, yes, it's been a while since we've been able to get together face to face and enjoy the good food there. Briana was instrumental in getting the Welcome Back Social off the ground, and as it turned out, the only in-person event the Section has had in the last two years, but it was a great one and enjoyed by all. And that very much exemplifies Briana's energy, drive and willingness to jump in and help to get things started and going, no matter how difficult or complex the planning, tasks, arrangements, details, etc. will be.

And one wonders where Briana gets the energy. Of course being as young as she is (and possibly our youngest Section President, but we'll have to do a little more research to confirm that – from what we know, this is probably the case as the position tended to be dominated by more senior people [and almost all men] for many years), her level of energy is not totally surprising, but she holds down a busy position as a project manager with Langan handling transportation efforts and submissions which surely, as we all know, will keep one "hopping" all day. Despite this, she continues to "hop" after hours with both our Section and her service as a board member at the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, as well as with its Engineers Week Committee where she assists with the administration of E Week awards and scholarships. (And, having been involved with E Week for several years as well, your Editor finds it truly amazing to hear people ask how busy this can be, as it's only one week, failing to realize the planning, preparation, and various behind-the-scenes efforts that are needed to make this happen, often starting the summer before, thus the "Week" part of this is a misnomer in many ways.) And, keeping in mind that, for the second season in a row, despite plans to return to in-person meetings, we were only able to offer virtual meetings, Briana was able to pull this off,

again following the lead of her predecessor and "trailblazer" Jen. Not an easy task, and not at all easy to plan when the "target" of when restrictions would ease (and then did the exact opposite), but she was able to make it happen.

From the get-go, when Briana took the reins at the (what else?) virtual Spring Social in May, she forged ahead to do what we could to have a Spring Social where we could once again see each other face-to-face and network, and she made it happen, although it became the "Welcome Back Fall Social", and didn't happen in the spring, but it was a great event. But after direction from National, and following the route of caution to be on the safe side, we reverted to virtual meetings when the Section Meeting program started up in the fall, with the hopes that "regular" or "normal" would be our goal in the coming months. As we know, that didn't happen, but despite Briana being the second President to preside over a season of meetings in which she would be seen only on computer screens, it has been a very successful season and offered good presentations and speakers.

It was nice to see, despite the often consistently bad news on the virus front, Briana's monthly messages (which, as you know, your Editor practically memorizes, but given his iffy memory, get forgotten easily as well...) remained admirably and consistently upbeat and optimistic. This certainly was helped by the Section getting things accomplished and putting on successful events despite the constraints imposed by the situation. It was good to see that our Section was able to remain a "constant" throughout this, and this is a testament to good leadership.

Briana is part of a two-Engineer household with her husband, with the nonofficial title of "first gentleman", Jeremy. While this is likely a little less volatile than an Engineer/Architect relationship, and we've seen a few of those, Briana and Jeremy at least work for different firms, and in some ways compete, so we're sure there are always interesting discussions, and we wish them good luck. As some of you know, she's been married twice, but both times it's been to Jeremy, and it was actually two ceremonies of the same marriage (prompted,

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## The Young Will Lead Us...

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as many things these days, by virus restrictions). If you were expecting a scandal with juicy details, well, sorry to burst your bubble on this...

And did we mention energy – Briana is an avid skier and snowboarder, and enjoys fitness activities, working out and lifting weights. So even with the weight of a full-time job and a host of "after school" stuff, she manages to get it done. She is a proud New Yorker, from the 'Cuse area as she will tell you, and brings with that the requisite accent of that part of the world. (You will more than likely not mistake her for a native Philadelphian when she speaks...)

Briana can proudly say that she's our tenth female president. We at *THE NEWS* say this carefully, as her being a 10 can be construed in many different ways, and you know we only mean it in the professional sense (and that's our story when we get called into HR...). And with her following Jenn, this is the first time we had two female presidents in a row, hopefully something we will see more and more in the future (but not in the next couple of years, as two men will be following her). And considering she is President #109, the score of men vs. women remains very much lopsided (and our ten women Presidents have all served within the last 35 years of our 110-year history).

We do hope we have been able to give you a little insight on our outgoing President. We are very grateful to Briana for all that she has done, and she will be the first to tell you she has the support of a great group of Officers and Directors that has helped make this happen. But, you know we'll still follow tradition next year and give her successor Moe Elghawy his due "report" as well. And maybe next season we'll be able to see everyone in person once again – let's keep our fingers crossed...

# SCIENCE FAIRS – SEEKING JUDGES – LAST CHANCE!

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs**. At the time of this printing the Fairs are being planned as an in-person event, returning to this format for the first time since 2019, and will be conducted on **Wednesday**, **April 6** at the **Greater Philadelphia Expo Center** in Oaks. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Volunteer judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. A short orientation session will be provided immediately before the judging begins to get one familiar with the process and procedure. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge please contact **Chris Rood (chris.rood@aecom.com)**. You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website **www.dvsf.org**.

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.



# N-ASCE\*

## THE HISTORY OF THE ZAMBONI MACHINE

As Charlie Brown once said, "There are three things in life that people like to stare at: a flowing stream, a crackling fire and a Zamboni clearing the ice." There is something oddly satisfying about watching a Zamboni machine work as it washes away all the rough edges, leaving behind a shining, shimmering new surface of ice. If only erasing all of life's rough patches was that easy.

So, where or where did this magical creation come from? Like all great inventions, the Zamboni machine was born out of necessity – resurfacing ice was a laborious process prior to its arrival. But that is only one part of this piece of equipment's origin story. For the rest, you'll have to start in the unlikeliest of climates.

The Zamboni machine had its start a century ago in, of all places, sunny Southern California. In 1920, mechanic Frank J. Zamboni and his brother Lawrence moved to Los Angeles and began working at their older brother George's auto repair shop. Soon after, Frank became trained as an electrician and opened the Service Electric Company with Lawrence. The company made refrigerator units for dairy producers and then got into the ice business, making the block ice used to transport food by rail. As refrigeration technology made this latter specialty obsolete, the brothers looked for new ways to use their ice expertise. Their solution was to build an ice rink to satisfy the growing interest in ice skating.

Iceland Skating Rink opened to guests in 1940. At 20,000 square feet, it was one of the largest rinks in the country, capable of holding up to 800 skaters. That many pairs of skates cutting, scraping and chipping the ice left the rink's surface in rough shape. At the time, the process of resurfacing an ice rink required several people and took more than an hour. Workers shaved the ice by driving over it with a tractor equipped with a scraper, then discarded the shavings, sprayed the surface with water and washed away the dirty water.

Zamboni was sure there was an easier way to accomplish this task and went to work trying to build an ice resurfacing machine. His first idea involved a sled towed by a tractor. It didn't work. After years of tinkering, he changed course and developed a self-contained vehicle that shaved and washed the ice, and then created a new layer of ice. In 1949, he unveiled the Model A Zamboni Ice Resurfacer and ice skating was never the same.

The machine Zamboni built in the 1940's works essentially the same way as those used today. A blade running along the bottom of the vehicle shaves the ice. The shavings are picked up by a horizontal screw and deposited into a snow tank. Water from a second tank washes away dirt and is filtered and sent back into the tank. Lastly, clean hot water is sprayed onto the surface and spread out by a towel pulled by the vehicle to create a new, level layer of fresh ice.

Over the next few years, Zamboni introduced models B through D, each a slight improvement over the previous iteration. But it was the Model E that wound up in the Hockey Hall of Fame. On New Year's Day 1954, the Ice Capades were taking place at the Boston Garden, followed by a hockey game between the Boston Bruins and New York Rangers. Resurfacing the ice between events would be a tall task. Fortunately, Bob Skrak, who helped Frank Zamboni get his invention off the ground, was working for Ice Capades at the time. Skark took a Zamboni machine and smoothed the ice quickly and effectively, creating a rink that appeared as if it had never been touched. The Bruins' management team was so impressed they ordered their own machine. Zamboni Model E 21 arrived later that year and became the first to be used by an NHL team, according to Smithsonian Magazine.

The Zamboni machine has evolved to become a highly effective, increasingly efficient battery-powered vehicle. The firm that produces it, however, has remained consistent. While it has expanded its operations to include *Continued on page 6* 

## THE NEWS

## N-ASCE, Zamboni

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factories in Canada and Europe, the Zamboni Company still operates out of Southern California, blocks away from the Iceland Skating Rink. In fact, it's not uncommon to come across a Zamboni machine cruising along the neighborhood streets on its way to be tested at the rink.

In total, the Zamboni Company has produced more than 12,000 machines since 1949, including the ones you're likely to see at your local arena.

Thanks to AAA Magazine for this information.

\*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering...

# SECTION COMMITTEES

Our Section runs very well and it is mainly a result of the dedication and service of our many volunteers, both our Officers and Board Members as well as our various Committees. While many of you know the former group well, you may not be all that aware of the latter. Our Committees address many of our regular and ongoing issues and keep our Section vibrant and in the forefront of service to our membership. A list of our Committees and chairs for this season is provided below. We would like to thank these folks and their helpers for their contributions and diligence in helping our Section do what it does.

Additionally, if you have a particular interest in helping the Section as a Committee volunteer, please reach out to us at info@asce-philly.org or through our Section Secretary. Jesse Gormley (contact information is provided on page 2).

ASCE Brochure – Katrina Lawrence Budischak ASCE National Conference (2026) - Chris Menna Audit – Joe Natale Awards – Bob Wright Budget and Finance – Cricket Schreppler College Scholarship – Scott Cepietz Communications - Jesse Gormley Continuing Education – Joe Natale Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Assunta Daprano Government Relations - Open History and Heritage – Joe Natale Humphrey Fund – John Zarsky Membership - Kevin Brown Mural - Angelo Waters Nominating (for Board Positions) - Briana Pampuch Program – Moe Elghawy Registration and Payment – Mike DeVuono Society Relations - Cathy Farrell Spring Social Committee - Troy Illig Subsidiary Groups - Joe Natale Construction Management – Bob Wright Delaware Valley GeoInstitute - Jim Beideman Environmental and Water Resources - Eric Lindhult Structural Engineering Institute – James Greco Transportation & Development Institute - Bill Thomsen Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute – Nha Truong Younger Member Forum - Dennis Wilson

# YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Mohamed Asker, Forum Editor Dennis Wilson, Forum President 2021-22 McCormick Taylor, dewilson@mccormicktaylor.com

#### Winter Social

#### March 21

The traditional YMF Winter Social, at McGillin's Olde Ale House, was conducted as an in-person event, and the expected strong turnout enjoyed an evening of networking, catching up and enjoying some good food and drink. More information on this event will be provided in the May edition of THE NEWS.

### **Critical Issues Seminar**

#### March 30

This year's Critical Issues Seminar focused on the Surfside Condominium Collapse in Florida and the legal implications of this unfortunate incident. Panelists included John Nawn, PE of Delon Hampton Associates, Stephanie Walkup, PhD of Villanova University, and Michael Zettlemoyer, Esg., of Brehm Nofer & McCarter. More information on this event will be provide in the May edition of THE NEWS.

#### April Section Meeting

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along highway alignments. An important goal with this effort is to provide sufficient information to allow an owner or transportation partner to assure reliability in a constructed feature and make a reasoned decision on acceptance and payment. The FHWA has funded an effort to develop a procedural methods framework for acceptance of structural foundations. The effort is intended to reduce tendencies for the misuse of construction control and acceptance tools, inequity in methods for different foundation types, and decision making based on incomplete information. This presentation will summarize this effort and demonstrate is applicability in practice

Session 2: Philadelphia Museum of Art Core Renovation Project. Jay Taylor, PE and Amy Kuo, PE, Magnusson Klemencic Associates; Alex Stadel, PE, Keast & Hood. Sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). Since opening its main building on Fairmount to the public in 1928, the Museum of Art has continually updated its collection, programming, and exhibitions to stay relevant and meaningful. Inspired by the integrity of its historic building, the renovation plan has opened up the Museum's interior with more public spaces, more room for art, and easier navigation, all while honoring the original architecture. Nearly 90,000 square feet of space has been repurposed within the main building, all of which is ADA compliant and energy efficient. The scope of the project includes a rebuilt West Terrace, with integrated ramps to facilitate access for all visitors; a renovated Lenfest Hall, which has long served as the principal entrance to the museum; a new public space, which serves as the setting for a wide range of activities and connects the ground floor to the upper levels; and the Vaulted Walkway, a 640-foot long corridor that spans the entire width of the building and has not been open to the public for nearly 50 years. Areas once devoted to offices, the Museum's restaurant, and storage have been converted into two new suites of galleries totaling 20,000 square feet of exhibition space. This presentation will provide an overview of the work encompassed in this effort.

Session 3: I-95 Section BR2, Betsy Ross Interchange Ramps A and B. Geoffrey Stryker, PE, STV, Inc.; Thomas Kerins, Urban Engineers; Daniel Gleason, PennDOT District 6-0. Co-sponsored by the Transportation and Development Institute (TDI) and the Construction Technical Group. I-95 Section BR2 was awarded by PennDOT in 2020 with a completion date of September 2023. This \$94 million effort includes additional ramp improvements at the I-95/Betsy Ross Bridge Interchange. It will replace several ramp structures within the interchange, with a total of seven new bridges and two new retaining walls. It additionally includes management of fill and groundwater, concrete pavement, traffic control, and other miscellaneous construction. This presentation will feature the improvements and discuss the complexity and key challenges associated with this project. 6

# SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a **Section Sponsorship Program** to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves

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a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits.

Additionally, last season we began our informal

recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us, through volunteer assistance and award recognition among other things. Our Agency Partners' logos are shown below.

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